Neurocognitive Function and Psychological Health

A Prospective, Longitudinal Study of the Predictive Validity of the Military Functional Assessment Program (MFAP) for Predicting Successful Return to Duty

High rates of neurosensory injury from combat operations directly impact the health and well-being of both individual Service Members and troop readiness; thus, it is imperative to evaluate the psychometrics of assessments guiding return to duty decisions. The MFAP is a military-relevant assessment using multidisciplinary sources to verify Service Member cognitive and physical fitness. Researchers from the USAARL evaluated the relationship between clinical assessments and MFAP scores, and the predictive validity of MFAP scores on successful return to duty (or reintegration to civilian life). Active duty male and female Service Members (18 to 45) with a history of at least one concussive event were administered a clinical screening battery prior to treatment and rehabilitation. This battery includes core cognitive, psychological, vestibular, and occupational assessments. Other data include demographics, MFAP scores, and return to duty determinations. Follow-up data were collected at six and 12 months post-MFAP to include online self-report clinical assessments and structured phone interviews of occupational/cognitive performance. The six tasks most highly related to MFAP performance require judgment and decision-making skills as well as the ability to work well under pressure. The study was instrumental in evaluating the usefulness of the MFAP in assessing Service Member readiness to return to duty after mTBI (blast or non-blast). An ongoing study is correlating MFAP scores with actual Service Member job performance after returning to duty.